



## Fact Sheet:



# Drug Court Programs

## BACKGROUND

California's first adult drug court began in Alameda County in 1991. In 1995, California's first juvenile offender drug court began in Tulare County. The Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) has supported the development of drug courts in California since 1998. ADP, in alliance with the numerous drug courts throughout the State is committed to the concept that alcohol and drug services and treatment are preferable to incarceration of nonviolent drug offenders.

The goals of drug court programs are to:

- reduce drug usage and recidivism;
- provide court supervised treatment;
- offer the capability to integrate drug treatment with other rehabilitation services to promote long-term recovery and reduce social costs; and
- access federal and State support for local drug courts.

There is a growing body of information (papers, articles, and reports) about the effects of drug courts and their impact on drug offenders and communities. The Department's most recent contribution is its *Drug Court Partnership Program Report to the Legislature*, released in March 2002 and available on the Department's web site at <http://www.adp.ca.gov/drgcourt.asp>.

## COMMON TYPES OF DRUG COURTS

Across the State, local agencies have developed adult, juvenile, and dependency drug courts, which generally fall into one of four models.

- Pre-plea models afford drug possession offenders a stay of prosecution if they participate in court-supervised treatment. Upon successful completion of the drug court program the participant is discharged without a criminal record. However, failure to complete the program leads to the filing of charges and adjudication.
- Post-plea models require a defendant to enter a guilty plea before entering treatment. Treatment is from nine months to three years. Upon successful completion of the drug court program, the criminal charges are dismissed. However, failure to complete the program leads to the sentencing phase of adjudication.
- Post-adjudication models allow repeat drug offenders to enter treatment after their conviction, but prior to serving their sentence. Successful completion of the drug court program allows these offenders to serve their sentence in treatment instead of custody. Failure to complete the program leads directly to the activation of their sentence.

- Civil models allow individuals involved in civil actions (usually child custody) to enter treatment as a condition of retaining or regaining custody of their child(ren). Failure to complete the program leads to permanent loss of custody.

### ADP'S DRUG COURT PROGRAMS

The Drug Court Partnership (DCP) Act of 1998 created the DCP program. This program has annually granted State General Funds (SGF) to 34 counties beginning in May 1999. The funds are in support of adult drug courts.

The Comprehensive Drug Court Implementation (CDCI) Act of 1999 created the CDCI program. This program has annually granted SGF to 47 counties beginning in December 2000. The funds are in support of adult, juvenile, dependency, and family drug courts.

### TARGET POPULATION

Drug courts are diverse and serve various populations such as adults, juveniles, repeat drug offenders, multiple offenders, and probation violators. Generally, drug court participants have abused alcohol and other drugs for ten or more years and received little or no substance abuse treatment.

### CALIFORNIA'S DRUG COURTS

ADP funding provides support to the majority of drug courts in California. The Administrative Office of the Courts data base states that, as of February 2003, there were 150 drug courts for adult and juvenile drug offenders within 50 counties of the State.

### COUNTIES

|              |                 |               |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Alameda      | Mariposa        | San Mateo     |
| Butte        | Mendocino       | Santa Barbara |
| Calaveras    | Merced          | Santa Clara   |
| Contra Costa | Modoc           | Santa Cruz    |
| Del Norte    | Monterey        | Shasta        |
| El Dorado    | Napa            | Siskiyou      |
| Fresno       | Nevada          | Solano        |
| Glenn        | Orange          | Sonoma        |
| Humboldt     | Placer          | Stanislaus    |
| Imperial     | Plumas          | Sutter        |
| Kern         | Riverside       | Trinity       |
| Kings        | Sacramento      | Tulare        |
| Lake         | San Bernardino  | Tuolumne      |
| Lassen       | San Diego       | Ventura       |
| Los Angeles  | San Francisco   | Yolo          |
| Madera       | San Joaquin     | Yuba          |
| Marin        | San Luis Obispo |               |

### PROGRAM EVALUATION

In collaboration with the Judicial Council, ADP provided an interim report on DCP to the Legislature on March 1, 2000 and a final analysis of DCP on March 1, 2002. Copies of these reports are available via the Internet.

ADP, again in collaboration with the Judicial Council, will provide an interim report on the effectiveness of the CDCI program to the Legislature by March 1, 2004. A final analysis of the program will be provided by March 1, 2005.

### MORE DRUG COURT INFORMATION

Visit ADP'S web page at:

<http://www.adp.ca.gov/drgcourt.asp>, or contact:

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